

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 40, Number 02

February 2015

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting

Friday, February 6, 2015, 8:00 PM (???) to 10:00 PM.
Starts *after* the Board Meeting ends. (See schedule at right).

Scheduled Topic: To be determined.
(Possibly Random Access).

Scheduled Speaker: To be determined.

Window Pains Meeting

Friday, February 20, 2015, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Scheduled Topic: Angular JS.
Scheduled Speaker: Mike Redlich.

Java Users Group Report

Mike Redlich, ACGNJ

At the last minute, due to a plumbing emergency, I had to postpone the January 13th Java meeting until January 27th. Unfortunately, because of inclement weather (in fact, a blizzard), that meeting had to be **CANCELED!** Our scheduled topic was "Technical Overview of Gradle". This will now be the subject of our February 10th meeting.



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

This newsletter was made by 100% pure Linux!

Operating System: Ubuntu 12.04 LTS

Desktop Publisher: Scribus 1.3.3.13

Word Processor: LibreOffice Writer 3.3.4

ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org).

For news from OTHER clubs, please go to:
<http://www.acgnj.org/joomla/>

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, February 2, 8 PM
Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

Board of Directors Meeting: **Friday** Feb 6, **7 PM**
(Immediately *before* the **Main Meeting** below)
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, February 6, 8:00 PM
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Layman's Forum: Monday, February 9, 8:00 PM
Matt Skoda (som359 (at) gmail.com)

Java: Tuesday, February 10, 7:30 PM
Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Mobile Devices: Wednesday, February 11, 7:30 PM
Brenda Bell (mobdevsig (at) acgnj.org)

Investing: Thursday, February 12, 8:00 PM
Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

NJ Gamers: Friday, February 13, 6:00 PM
Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Computer Workshop: **Saturday**, Feb 14, **1:00 PM**
Bob Hawes (cmp.wrksph (at) acgnj.org).

Web Browser: Monday, February 16, 7:30 PM
David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, February 17, 7:30 PM
Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

Window Pains: Friday, February 20, 8:00 PM
John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, March 2, 8 PM
Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on last page. 🗺

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Investing	Jim Cooper				
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LUNICS	Andreas Meyer				
Mobile Devices	Brenda Bell				
NJ Gamers	Gregg McCarthy				
Web Browser	David McRitchie				
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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at <http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>.

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ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Jan. 8, 2015)

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

Happy 2015! I know it was cold, but we had a very nice first meeting to start off the year on Thursday, 1/8/2015 with **10** attendees.

Jim Cooper started the meeting very well with his "Check-my-Ticker" (formerly, Stocks-n-Charts or Charts-n-Chat) presentation and discussion, where attendees can ask for their Ticker(s) to be checked by Jim and the group. Everybody gave very constructive input to the variety of tickers that were requested. Excellent job, Jim.

It was very good to see George Mayer at the meeting

again after recovering from a house fire earlier in 2014. George also gave a nice discussion on short-term price reversals at extremes.

Thanks to everybody who attended. Please attend the meetings, everybody learns from the. We hope to see you at February's meeting, **2/12/2015**. Also, please send an email to Jim if you would like any trading topic to be discussed, or if you would like to discuss any trading preferences that you have. Others would like to hear them, too. Thank you.

Philip Lees

ACGNJ Mini-Reports

Main Meeting Report

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

We had **NO** attendees at our Main Meeting on January 2, 2015 because it was **CANCELLED!** (Due to its proximity to New Year's Day).

Computer Workshop Report

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

We had 2 attendees at our January 10 meeting. We each worked on our own individual projects, and we wound up staying *later* than 4:00 PM.

Layman's Forum Report

Matt Skoda, ACGNJ

We had 4 attendees at our January 12, 2015 meeting. (Art Williams, Steve Fritsch, Mike Reagan and Myself). The main part of the meeting was helping

Steve Fritsch with his new Windoze 8 laptop. We installed software and removed manufacturer-installed crapware.

Windows Pains Meeting Report For December 2014 (Late)

Brenda Bell, ACGNJ

Our Dec. 19, 2014 Window Pains Meeting's topic was "Programming Language Shootout". There was some talk about variants of C and predecessor languages (e.g., B), with Ron Winter keeping on bringing things back to "the real language is C and everything else is derivative". When someone gave an opening to discuss scripting languages, Dave McRitchie took the floor to passionately extol Firefox scripting and bookmarklets. Some potential additions to the discussion mix were excluded for lack of time.

We had 9 attendees: Bruce Arnold (moderator), Frank Warren, John Raff, Ron Winter, Brenda Bell, Wendy Bell, Mike Reagan, Dave McRitchie, Scot Jenkins.

Windows Pains Meeting Report For January 2015

Brenda Bell, ACGNJ

On Jan. 16th, 2015 we met at the Microsoft Store in Bridgewater Commons to hear about the Surface Pro 3 and Microsoft Band. Microsoft Store employee Garrett Miller showed us the Surface Pro, the Microsoft Office App (Metro interface) and application (desktop interface), One Note (a Windows-only program that does a lot of what platform-independent Evernote does), and a special stylus which allows pressure-sensitive drawing within the One Note application.

Microsoft Store employee Tai Ma showed us the Microsoft Band, a competitor to FitBit, Jawbone's Up, Nike Fuel, and other fitness bands, as well as the Pebble and the Samsung Watch. The interface was

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pretty, but its health functionality was limited to heart rate, sleep, and run monitoring, and its applications (Facebook, Email, Text) were limited and built-in. On the plus side, Microsoft has created Band syncing and logging apps for iOS and Android

as well as Windows Phone.

There were 5 members present: Don McBride, Dave McRitchie, Matt Skoda, Wendy Bell and Brenda Bell. The meeting began shortly after 7PM and ended just after 9PM.

Good News, Bad News

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

I like it when I can use a cliché as my title; and I've been wanting to use this one for quite some time. Now, finally, I have. So let's get down to it.

I began my previous article (*Year End Review 2014*) by writing "Throughout the past year, I often had several different writing projects going on at once. Right now, I've got *four*". This month, that's still true. First, there's my multi-part *Distros Revisited* series. (The *sixth* part of which appeared in our November 2014 issue). Second is my multi-part *Still Too Big ???* series. (The first part of which appeared in our December 2014 issue). The third is the so-far unnamed article scheduled for next month, and the

fourth is *this* new article. The "News" alluded to in our title involves those two multi-part projects. "Good" for the *Distros Revisited* series, and "Bad" for the *Still Too Big ???* series.

Bad News first: You may remember that I abruptly ended *Still Too Big ??? (Part 1)* when I found that adding or deleting one specific JPG image measuring 21,387 bytes resulted in an output PDF size change of 189,141 bytes. That's a difference of 167,754 bytes, when my other differences were coming out between 263 and 297 bytes each. I re-did this several times, and my results always came out exactly the same. So I was forced to accept this

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incredibly anomalous outcome as accurate. That result has delayed the *Still Too Big ???* series for a while. (*Part 2* was originally scheduled for *this* month). I'll resume it when I figure out exactly what to do.

Now for the Good News: Back in April of 2012, when Ubuntu 12.04 LTS first came out, the policy was that an LTS (Long Term Support) release had 3 years support on the Desktop version and 5 years support on the Server version. Later, I heard that LTS Desktop support had been bumped up to 5 years as well; but I *couldn't* find any official written notice of this. I searched the regular Ubuntu website (www.ubuntu.com) several times, to no avail. Being a suspicious person, I assumed that this lack of confirmation indicated that it *wasn't* true.

Now, Matt Skoda has unearthed the following quote at <https://wiki.ubuntu.com/LTS>: "Starting with Ubuntu 12.04 LTS, both versions will receive 5 years support". So I see that I was being a bit too myopic, searching for "official" written confirmation *only* on the official website. How silly of me.

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However, this Good News means that my beloved 12.04 LTS installation *will* still be good for over two more years, instead of barely a few months longer. So quickly continuing the *Distros Revisited* series has just become a whole lot *less* critical.

Therefore, my Bad News means that my *Still Too Big ???* series is going to take longer to complete, and my Good News means that my *Distros Revisited* series is *also* going to take longer to complete. Maybe quite a bit longer, because Matt also sent me an e-mail containing *a lot* of additional candidates. For everybody's benefit, I plan to reproduce Matt's e-mail elsewhere in this issue. Probably right after this article ends.

Well, At Least Something Got Finished

Here's another long-term project involving this newsletter that I *did* just wrap up. By "stretching" things a bit, I can express it in the Good News, Bad News fashion, and thus include it in this article. First, the Bad News: Because I *didn't* finish this just *one* month sooner, I couldn't include it as part of my performance as Newsletter Editor in *Year End*

Review 2014 last issue. Now, here's the Good News: All of our "boilerplate" pages are now completely and easily editable. (And just think. It only took me three years and one month as full time Editor to accomplish this).

So what are "boilerplate" pages, and what exactly did I do to them? Well, they're pages containing information that hardly ever changes. So they get re-used over and over again, maybe for *years*. Back in the days of the good old mechanical printing press, the plates for such pages had to endure a *whole lot* more wear and tear than the regular printing plates (which, generally speaking, only had to survive one day's use). So they were made of the same extra strong metal that was used to make high pressure steam boilers. Hence, "boilerplate"; and the term stuck, even into the twenty-first century. We've got five of them. (Six if you count page 1, about half of which gets re-used each month). As is so often the case, what I did to them will require further explanation below.

In December of 2007 (two and a half years *after* I

began writing articles for this newsletter), I decided that I wanted to do more for the club. So I ran for an open Director-at-Large position, and I was elected. In the course of my duties during the next year, I joined the 2008 By-Laws Revision Committee (which turned out to be a *very* tough job), I became Newsletter Committee Chairman (an appointed position, then unfilled), and I volunteered to design an "e-mail blast" system. (A way to reliably and quickly send information to all of our members in case of an emergency). Fortunately for me (and especially for you), I *won't* need to go into any details about our By-Laws work here; but those other two tasks led to quite a lot

By the end of June, my e-mail blast system was ready for its first full scale test, which I sent out as a special issue of this newsletter, called *End-of-June 2008 Supplement*. (Later, I re-did it as a PDF file, "for the archives"). Because I wanted my design to be "newsletter-like", I looked for newsletter type items to add to it. At that time, the newsletter was *not* published in July or August. Thus, the two short

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reports that I'd written about the two "A-List" speakers we had in June would have waited until the September issue to be used, where they'd have been "old hat". So I decided to include them right away in my supplement.

Looking around for other information to include, I discovered that there were, in fact, *eleven* meetings scheduled to be held in July and August. That gave me more content, and it also gave me my front page headline: ACGNJ HAS SUMMER ACTIVITIES! Finally, for the four page PDF version, I quickly mocked up a streamlined approximation of the regular newsletter masthead. Even though, on the front page, I said; "This isn't a summer newsletter issue. Really, it's not", there actually *wasn't* anyplace else to put it. So, if you're interested, you'll find it in the July 2008 slot in the ACGNJ Newsletter grid on our website.

When I first became a Director, I expected that the Board of Directors would have files containing copies of the club's minutes, dating all the way back to the very beginning. How naive of me. Like it or

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not, our collection of old newsletter PDF files (though slightly incomplete) seemed to be the only historical record that this club had. (After she took over as Newsletter Editor in 1995, Barbara DeGroot took it upon herself to collect as many old newsletters as she could find, and scan them into her computer. Thank you, Barbara). Although we wouldn't actually produce our first Newsletter Collection CD until almost two years later (in April of 2010), *this* was the point at which I, too, realized that such a collection was vital; and it's also why I made that PDF version of *End-of-June 2008 Supplement*. (So it could be included on that CD when it was finally created).

During the course of 2008, several other things came up that I thought should *also* be preserved in the "permanent record". Unfortunately, for one reason or another, they just wouldn't have fit well in a "regular" newsletter issue. So I decided to produce *another* Supplement. Because I started it in December, I called it *End-of-Year 2008 Supplement*. (Shh! Don't tell anyone, but it wasn't actually

completed until quite a while *after* that). It turned out to be 20 pages long, and measured 4.3 MB.

On page 1, its masthead and its “In This Issue” block (our table of contents) were the same ones that we still use today. On page 2, I somehow ported the information from Ventura Publisher (the club's old desktop publisher) to Scribus (my new desktop publisher). I really don't remember anything about how I did this. Such a lack of recollection usually means that I blindly followed someone else's directions, everything went very easily, and/or nothing remarkable happened. Unfortunately, whatever I did wound up causing me problems for years to come. (More about this later).

On pages 3 and 8, I tried my experimental “2 column, half page” format for the first time. (I would have used it on more of the pages, but they just naturally laid out so that it *wasn't* needed. Such an unusual situation *never* happened again). Unfortunately, *End-of-Year 2008 Supplement* can *only* be found on our Newsletter Collection CD, because there was no suitable hole on our Newsletter

grid in which to stick it.

In 2009, I decided to produce my own July and August issues. The July issue came in at ten pages long, and during its construction, I re-used as much as possible of page 1 and all of page 2. (That's when I found out just how hard it was to update the top half of page 2). Happily, I was able to use my “2 column, half page” format on most of the pages this time.

The August issue came in at fifteen pages long, and again, during its construction, I re-used as much as possible of page 1 and all of page 2. Plus, I was able to use my “2 column, half page” format on most of the pages this time, too. Barbara DeGroot, then still the full time Newsletter Editor, saw that format in these two issues, liked it, and used it from her September issue onward.

In 2010, I produced my own July and August issues again, using pages 1 and 2 the same as in 2009. They came in at eight and fourteen pages long, respectively. In 2011, I did it yet again; but this time I knew that I'd be taking over as full time Editor with

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the January 2012 issue. So those two issues were *not* just an egotistical indulgence. They were now *practice*. As such, I had to work to a higher standard.

As in my previous “summer issues”, I put the schedule of meetings on the *front* page of both my 2011 issues. After 2002, when most printed copies were eliminated in favor of PDF files only, Barbara had kept her schedule on the back page. On a newsletter that was actually printed, I felt that the back page was OK for the schedule, as it was just as easily accessible as the front page when the physically present newsletter was lying around the house somewhere (like on a coffee table). However, in a PDF file, the back page was always the *last* page, and thus the *hardest* place to get to. Therefore, I decided that, starting in January 2012, the schedule should be permanently moved to the front page.

I used Barbara's June 2011 issue as the model for my July and August 2011 issues. Except for page 2, her “boilerplate” started on page 12, and continued on to page 15 (almost at the end). I started at the very end, on Barbara's page 16. It contained the schedule

(which I'd already decided to move to page 1). The only other things that it contained were two meeting announcements. Since I'd also decided to move such announcements as close to the front as possible, her page 16 didn't actually contain anything that I wanted to keep. So I eliminated it.

Barbara's page 15 contained directions to the club, a map, “Other Local Computer Groups”, and a few other things, *all* boilerplate. So it became my page 16. To save time, I used the GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) to convert that page from a PDF image into a PNG image (and later into a JPG image). Using the crop tool, I trimmed it to 8 ½ inches wide by 10 ¼ inches high. That way, it would completely cover a standard letter size page, *except* for the ¾ inch at the bottom. This would allow the footer at the bottom to show through, thus displaying information that was “subject to change” (such as the issue date each month, and the page number occasionally). Below the schedule on page 1, I put a note saying “Directions and map on last page”. This way, I wouldn't have to edit that note any time an

issue wound up being either more or less than 16 pages long. (As *has* sometimes happened).

Likewise, her page 14 contained “Guru Corner”, a discount magazine ad, and a membership application form. Again, all boilerplate. Using the same techniques, I converted it to an image and made it my page 15. Barbara's page 13 was all “SIG News”, as was the bottom half of her page 12. The top half of her page 12 contained a small article and our Newsletter Collection CD ad. Since I'd designed the CD ad myself, I could easily duplicate it. The small article was now discardable; and, fortunately, all of the SIG News text was easily copyable.

So I started at the top of *my* page 13, and I filled it with as much SIG News text as would fit. Then I proceeded to my page 14, where I got a surprise. I filled up a lot more than half of the page. What Barbara had squeezed into 1 ½ pages, I could barely get into 1 ¾ pages. Fortunately, I just managed to fit in the CD ad, so my page 14 was “good enough”. Thus, in addition to page 2 (which, you'll remember, gave me problems), I now had four more boilerplate

pages. Pages 13 and 14 were completely and easily editable, but pages 15 and 16 were *NOT*. True, their content *could* be edited with a graphics editor like the GIMP, but that was *very, very* difficult.

Wow! We're now past 2,300 words; and it just took me a little over *1,500 words* to simply tell you how I *got* my boilerplate pages. What will it take to tell you how I *fixed* three of them? We'll soon find out. In July of 2014, after *five and a half years* of merely enduring my problems with page 2, I finally decided to fix them. So here's what I did: I made a copy of the Scribus work file for the then “under construction” August 2014 issue, opened it, went to page 2, and used the Edit Text function to launch the built-in Scribus Story Editor. Then I used it to edit the large text frame that completely filled the top half of the page. (This is where all of my problems were located. The five text frames on the bottom were OK as far as editability was concerned).

Looking at the top line, I saw a few inches of empty space (probably caused by tabs) and then the following:

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Officers, Directors and Leaders*President
There we had *all* of the words in the first line (the heading), followed by a single red asterisk, and then the first word of the *second* line. (Actually, more words from the second line followed, and there were also a lot more red asterisks spread out across the screen; but I haven't bothered to include anything else here. Because what I *did* reproduce above was the clue that led me to the solution).

Instead of that red asterisk, there *should* have been a hard return, to move the word President to the next line; but there *wasn't*. Since I was working on an expendable copy of the Scribus work file, I could make all the possibly destructive changes that I wanted; and I soon proved to my satisfaction that there were, in fact, *no* hard returns, carriage returns, line feeds, or carriage return/line feed combinations *anywhere* in this text frame. So *what*, exactly, did those red asterisks do?

Now, on the LibreOffice drop-down menu bar, under Insert, there's a Manual Break option. It gives you three choices: Column break, Line break or Page

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break. While I've occasionally used a Page break, I don't think that I've ever used either of the other two; but now, I made a test page containing all three, imported it into Scribus, and I established beyond a shadow of a doubt that *all* of those red asterisks were Line breaks. (Obviously, I myself couldn't have put them there. At least, not *knowingly*). So I deleted them all, replaced them with hard returns, and then exited Story Editor.

As far as the newly edited top half of page 2 that Scribus was now displaying was concerned, I *hadn't* made any changes at all. Even though it was now *much* easier to comprehend (and thus edit) in Story Editor, it looked just the same. However, this first change didn't fix all of my problems, because the information was still laid out *wrong*. There were *two* half page width columns of data displayed in *one* full page width column of text. Club Officers and Special Interest Groups were displayed on the left side of the page, while Directors and Standing Committees were displayed on the right side. So you couldn't, for example, delete a Standing Committee

without also deleting the SIG that was occupying that same line. Conversely, you couldn't add a SIG without also adding a blank line to the Standing Committee list.

Separating the data turned out to be pretty easy. First, I created a new full width, short height text frame to contain just the heading, so it could easily be centered on the page. Then, I took the existing full page width, full height text frame, and I decreased it's size to *half* of the page width. (This didn't actually affect the data contained in the frame. It only affected how much of that data could be *seen*). Next, I made a second copy of that newly reduced half page width frame, and I set them side by side underneath my newly created heading. Then I edited *both* frames. In the left hand frame I deleted the second half of each line, and in the right hand frame, I deleted the first half of each line. When I was done, each of my two smaller frames contained only *one* column of data. So page 2 still looked *exactly* the same, but it was now completely and easily editable.

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absolutely sure myself). It also took two smaller image frames (for the APCUG logo and the Scotch Plains map). Now it, too, is completely editable. This new page 16 first appeared in our January 2015 issue, just *three and a half years* after its predecessor first appeared. Now that *all* of our "boilerplate" pages are editable, we have to decide what, if anything, needs to be cut out or changed. So "take it away", Board of Directors!

Appendix I: Skeletons In My Closet

Each month, I *don't* start my latest newsletter from scratch. Instead, I use a "skeleton" file. That's a sixteen page Scribus work file containing *all* of the elements that we repeat from month to month. Thus, page 1 is already almost halfway filled in, and pages 2, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are our "boilerplate" pages. Pages 3 through 12 are "blank", but they *already* contain empty text frames, plus headers, footers and center separators. Unless I need to add or delete pages (which is easy enough to do), I can just begin

In July of 2013, I received an e-mail informing me that the discount magazine ad on page 15 was no longer valid. In the August 2013 issue, I did a quick fix by covering the ad up with a copy of that e-mail, plus my reply to it. In the September 2013 issue, I did a "joke" fix by covering the ad with a "THIS SPACE FOR RENT" notice. In the October 2013 issue, I finally came up with a permanent replacement, an ad for our club t-shirts. A year later, I deleted the full-page-size image, and replaced it with a membership application image that just took up the bottom of the page. (This *didn't* affect the t-shirt ad at all. It just *wasn't* covering up that old ad anymore). Of course, Guru Corner was now *gone*. (*Three* text frames were required to create an editable replacement for it). My new page 15 made its debut in our November 2014 issue, just three and a third years after its predecessor first appeared.

In the middle of December 2014, I finally gritted my teeth and tackled page 16. Believe it or not, it took *thirty-seven* text frames of various sizes to pull it off. (Actually, I counted them three times, just to be

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filling in the "skeleton" right away.

Each "skeleton" file's name is a code. The first four numbers are the year and month in which it was last updated; but the 3 at the end is *not* a revision number. It indicates that Scribus version 1.3.3.13 was used to update the file. Some recent "milestones":

1401SKL3.sla – The *last* skeleton file with all the *old* boilerplate pages.

1408SKL3.sla – The first skeleton file with an easily editable page 2.

1411SKL3.sla – The first skeleton file with an easily editable page 15.

1501SKL3.sla – The first skeleton file with an easily editable page 16.

Of course, now that all of our "boilerplate" pages are equally editable, we should expect that they'll be edited. Possibly a lot. So no doubt there will more new "skeletons" in the future.

See you next month. ☐

The bad news: There was empty space on this page.

The good news: I was able to fill it up with this text.

Hey Bob! – Linux Info

(An E-mail to the Editor)

Matt Skoda, ACGNJ

Subject: Hey Bob! – Linux Info
From: Matt Skoda
Sent: Sun 12/14/14 5:52 PM
To: editor (at) acgnj.org

The most important thing is the CPU. Does the CPU have PAE (Physical Address Extension) or non-PAE? (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_Address_Extension). If the CPU is a 64 bit processor it has PAE. You need PAE processor to run 64-bit OSs and access more than 4 GB in Windoze. Older computers' plus netbooks' CPUs are non-PAE processors. Non-PAE processors are CHEAPER.

PAE processor running 32-bit Linux OS can access 64 GB of memory if the memory is install on the machine. The BIOS may be a limiting factor. I personally have not tried it, but I know it can be done. Best choice is a 32-bit Linux OS, but not all modern Linux 32-bit Distros support non-PAE. Ubuntu stopped supporting non-PAE processor with version 14.04.

Future Ubuntu LTS (Long Term Support) releases will have 5 years support on the Desktop version, while **non**-LTS releases will have *a lot* less support. Many Distros, who fork or use Ubuntu, are sticking with Ubuntu LTS versions for their future versions updates because of Ubuntu's future directions. Linux Mint is sticking with Ubuntu LTS versions for future releases:

http://www.phoronix.com/scan.php?page=news_item&px=MTY5MDM

One of the major problems with Linux is the multitude of Distros (distributions). Once you choose a Distro to use an you may than have to choose a "Desktop" which is the User Interface that the end user sees on the screen. Apple determine its interface for the Mac OS while Microsoft determines the interface for it OSs. You can think of the Linux Desktops in terms of the various interface that Microsoft used for each of its OS versions. Windows 95 was different interface from Window

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XP which is different from Windows 8. Some of Linux Lite Resource Distros for older computers using LXDE, and XFCE Desktops while Unity and KDE Desktops, which are resource hogs, require modern computers.

I hope that the following info and links are of interest.

Distrowatch for Old Computers: <http://distrowatch.com/search.php?ostype=All&category=Old+Computers&origin=All&basedon=All¬basedon=None&desktop=All&architecture=All&status=Active>

Distrowatch for Netbooks: <http://distrowatch.com/search.php?category=Netbooks>

12 great Linux operating systems for netbooks (Oct 6, 2013):

<http://www.everydaylinuxuser.com/2013/10/12-great-linux-operating-systems-for.html>

6 More Great Linux Operating Systems For Netbooks (Jan 12, 2014):

<http://www.everydaylinuxuser.com/2014/01/6-more-great-linux-operating-systems.html>

Bodhi Linux
February 2015

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Crunchbang

Linux Lite

LXPup

MacPUP

Manjaro

Linux Mint 15 XFCE

Peppermint OS

SolusOS (similar to the Windows 7 menu).

SolydX

Xubuntu

Zorin OS Lite (desktop look like Windows 2000 or Mac OSX).

AntiX

SparkyLinux

Lubuntu

OS4 OpenLinux (OS4 is based on Xubuntu so in reality you are getting a fairly stock version of Xubuntu with a few tweaks in the choice of applications. Flash videos and MP3s to play but with OS4 these things work straight away).

Point Linux (MATE desktop).

Elementary OS (little sluggish compared to the other operating systems).

Comments from Web site:

Might want to checkout LXLE, based on Lubunu but more resource saving! See it at LXLE.net.

I also use LXLE on an acer aspire one d260 netbook and it works very well. Has everything you want without slowing the machine down.

I have both Ubuntu 14.04 and Bodhi Linux 2.4 on my Aspire One and both are very, very nice and smooth, especially Bodhi.

I tried almost all of the reviewed distros finally settling for Lubuntu.

I think the choice of desktop is key when running on a netbook. LXDE, XFCE and Mate are good choices.

Debian 7 XFCE, mint15, Manjaro 0.8.7 XFCE. All Recommended.

I use Platinux 13+, runs super smooth on low spec setups and has a Gnome 4 environment.

I've tried LXLE - on my AspireOne Pro - cool and fast.

Also side note. Crunchbang has some issues installing from USB if you don't use specific burn programs (see statler USB install). Just a heads up.

Peppermint Linux is my favorite for netbooks as well as desktop PCs. Fast, easy to customize, very light and stable.

Can't go wrong with Bodhi Linux! I have it in my netbook and my laptop.

Iceweasel (Firefox) from backports to have current stable version.

Matt Skoda, Layman's Forum

“Free Speech” on the Internet, and More

Diane Fahlbusch, President, ICON PC User Group (ICONPCUG), Long Island, NY

Newsletter: The ICONPCUG Graphic (www.iconcpug.org) Editor (at) iconcpug.org

Social networking has allowed people to express themselves to either select people or to the public. Unfortunately, many posters do not exercise restraint, claiming it is their “right.” Freedom of Speech is a highly treasured right granted to Americans. However, it is also the most misunderstood and abused rights granted under the **First Amendment** to the Constitution of the United States. To quote it directly, “*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*”

But does this give one the complete freedom to say whatever, whenever and however one wants?

The original purpose of Freedom of Speech was to allow for religious freedom and different political views to be expressed. When the USSR started making some changes, it was jokingly phrased that citizens still had the same long lines to wait in, but were now allowed to complain about them. This is something Americans take for granted. The Constitution also allowed the press to publish verified facts and editorials without recrimination.



(The key here is VERIFIED facts. The Watergate scandal was actually exposed to by two reporters, which then led to criminal investigations.) However, that does not give one carte blanche to say whatever one wants. This is evidenced by the existence of cease and desist orders, gag orders, restraining orders, retractions and the like emanating from defamation and harassment cases.

Defamation is defined as “*the action of damaging*

the good reputation of someone", and encompasses both slander and libel. **Slander** is *SPOKEN defamation or false statements*. **Libel** is *"WRITTEN, PRINTED or PICTORIAL representation which unjustly damages an individual's reputation, OR the act of presenting such a statement to the public."* **Harassment** is *"disturbing or irritating persistently."* All of these actions may land one in court.

The fastest growing concern in police departments is Cyber-bullying. Perhaps part of the problem is that the parents are really not supervising what their children are doing on. As one Suffolk County Police officer stated, "Would you just drop your kid off at Times Square at 10:00am and go back at 5:00pm to pick them up? Well, what do you think you're doing when you hand them an I-Pad and never look at what they're doing?!" Additionally, there is a marked increase in pedophile crimes due to internet communications.

Some recent evidence of statements being curtailed involves Twitter and Facebook postings. Some are



blatant stupidity, as in the March 29th Facebook posting by Colleen Chudney that she did drink but did not get caught by the breathalyzer test by her parole officer. The 22 year old was on probation for a 2012 drunk driving offense, and part of her parole was that she refrained from consuming any alcohol. Her parole officer saw the posting and called her. She hung up on him, which is another parole violation. He insisted on a urine test to check for drinking within the previous 80 hours. She was granted another 93 days in jail instead of her parole ending just a few weeks later.

A recent case involved a man who posted a public message about his estranged wife on Facebook. On November 23, 2011 Mark Byron posted the hate filled rant. It sparked great debate on the online

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circles while the case was pending. Of course most of the commentators ignored the fact that a court order of protection had already been issued to his wife and son after he was convicted of civil domestic violence against her last year. On February 23, 2012, a judge ruled that he had to post a lengthy apology and corrections to his previous inaccuracies on his Facebook page for 30 days or face 60 days in prison and \$500 fine.

Musician Courtney Love's 2010 public Twitter posting to reporter Alan Cross about an unnamed attorney who was "bought off" is another recent example. The attorney, Rhonda Holmes, brought a defamation case against Love. Surprisingly, the case was decided in Love's favor on January 25, 2014, since the attorney was not named, the posting was quickly removed once Love realized she had marked it "public" instead of "private," and, although the statement was false and injurious to Holmes's reputation, the case itself restored that reputation. (Each state's laws have nuances to them).

However, Love had to pay \$430,000 in damages

when she was sued in 2011 over statements posted on Twitter and Myspace regarding fashion designer Dawn Simorangkir. There is currently another case still pending, brought by Simorangkir against Love, based on accusations of theft on the Howard Stern's radio show and "taunting" on the social media site Pinterest.

The press has also become one of the greatest violators in the past few decades. They do not always verify their facts before reporting a story, and news stories are really editorials rather than reporting. The best example is the man accused of setting off a home-made pipe bomb at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. Almost everyone remembers his name, Richard Jewell, because for 10 days the news stations kept flashing his picture and name and basically stating that he did it. Numerous newspapers also made the same claim. They could have chosen to say that this man was a key to the investigation. They also selectively exposed facts about his personal life to present an unsavory character. And even when he was cleared by the



police a few weeks later, no one bothered to repeatedly show his picture and state that he was actually a hero. (He was a temporarily employed security guard making little more than minimum wage, yet he risked his life to help others.) And of course, most people cannot name the actual bomber.

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reevaluated how, when and what information to release to the public to prevent what they now call "The Richard Jewell Syndrome."

Devices come with instruction manuals and warning labels. Unfortunately speech does not come with this message: **WARNING - Engage brain before engaging mouth.** People also seem to have lost their common sense and consideration. Why would you discuss your life publicly on your social media page – or someone else's? That is part of the problem with social media – very few think before they post. The other problem is that the postings can be marked either "public" or "private", but most people do not pay attention to this. Furthermore, that private post you just sent can in turn be resent and made public by your "friend." Another interesting point is that even emails that are sent across a public network (otherwise known as the internet) are considered "public" messages, according to copyright law.

So, no, one DOES NOT have the RIGHT to say whatever pops into one's head – especially on social media, or any other media. And remember, the first

For the record, it was Eric Rudolf. He first became a suspect in 1998 and pleaded guilty in 2005 after eluding arrest for five years.

As an immediate aftermath of this "Freedom of Speech," Richard Jewell found that he was unemployable after all of the press coverage. Not only would potential employers rip up his resume and/or job application when they saw his name, but he was cursed at, thrown out of potential employers' offices and sometimes had things thrown at him. Even strangers on the streets of Atlanta and other towns bombarded him with verbal and physical abuse (spitting, punching and kicking). He had no choice but to sue those who had maligned him. The NY Post, NBC, and CNN just settled quickly, although they maintained there was no wrongdoing. But Cox network, owners of a string of news stations and publication, took the case to court and dragged it through the appeals court. Sadly on both accounts, the case was dismissed in August, 2007 after Richard Jewell's death because there was no plaintiff. However, law enforcement agencies

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four letters of Twitter spell "TWIT". Act responsibly and don't be one!

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SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@gmail.com)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August. ☐

Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in the back room, most of our time was spent in talking about past experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)
<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM). ☞

Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☞

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☞

Web Browser (Formerly Firefox)

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☞

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

37th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .12 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☞

Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681

Operating Systems

Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
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ACGNJ T-Shirts For Sale



(Front)



(Back)

L, XL: \$15.00

M: 2 for \$15.00

bob.hawes (at) acgnj.org

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at <http://www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html> and pay dues with PayPal.

US/CANADA		Dues	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25		\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40			
3 Years	\$55			\$45

Mail this application and your check to:
 AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups

Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, www.pmug-nj.org	Linux Users Group in Princeton: 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ http://www.lugip.org	New York PC: 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, http://www.nypc.org
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. www.cesop.org/	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. www.bcug.com	NJ Macintosh User Group: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org
PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ, www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org , (908) 995-4042.	NY Amateur Computer Group: 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. http://www.nyacc.org
Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs, Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. http://www.morrismicro.com	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC User Group: 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, www.njpcug.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. www.pacsnet.org	NJ Computer Club: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. http://www.njcc.org	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor: [editor\(at\)acgnj.org](mailto:editor(at)acgnj.org). Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



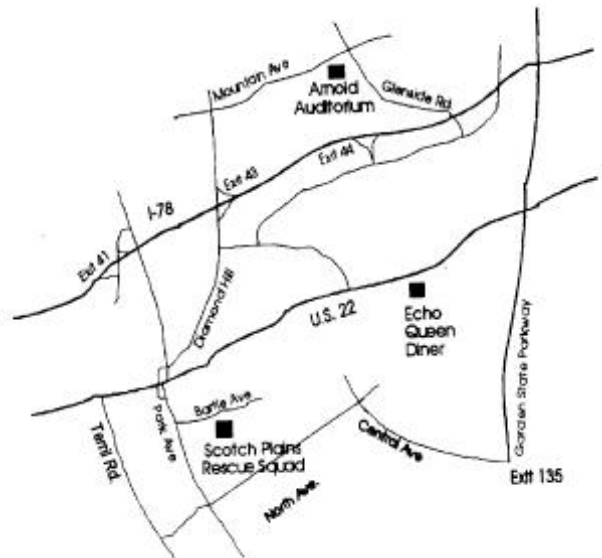
Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1800-876-WPEN



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building. You'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue to south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building - you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building.